Rail line between Dholpur and Gangapur city

†*618. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the survey for the new rail line from Dholpur to Gangapur city conducted and what is the estimated cost of this line;

(b) whether there is possibility of any special economic gain accruing to the Railways from this line; and

(c) by when this rail line would be sanctioned and the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) A survey for gauge conversion of Dholpur-Sirmuttra narrow gauge line into broad gauge and its extension from Sirmuttra to Gangapur city by construction of a new broad gauge line was conducted in 1998. The survey report revealed that the cost of 144.60 kms. long line would be Rs. 170.34 crores with a negative rate of return. Due to unremunerative nature of the line and acute constraint of resources the project could not be considered.

(c) Does not arise.

Super Cyclone in Orissa

*619. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss of properties and human lives assessed so far, district-wise caused by Super Cyclone in Orissa in the recent past;

(b) whether such natural disaster was declared as national calamity;

(c) the details of funds collected from national sources, MPLADS and foreign sources, seperately;

(d) whether relief and rehabilitation assistance has been provided to affected families; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the details thereof with quantum of assistance against the losses in each case?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The Government of Orissa has informed that the total loss of properties due to cyclone of 17th-18th October, 1999 and the Super cyclone of 29th October, 1999 has been estimated as Rs. 7977 crore and the loss of human lives was 8490. District-wise of details of human lives lost is given in the statement (*See* below).

(b) There is no provision as such for declaring any natural calamity as a "National Calamity". However, the calamity was of rare severity and accordingly dealt with at the National level.

(c) The State Government has reported that Rs. 390 lakhs was contributed by the Members of Lok Sabha and Rs. 530 lakhs was contributed by the Members of Rajya Sabha.

(d) and (e) As per information available from the State Government, the rehabilitation works are going on which include distribution of house building grant, payment of ex-gratia, restoration of primary/high school buildings, repair of roads/buildings, construction of houses, restoration of irrigation canals and flood/ saline embankments, restoration of power supply and restoration of livelihood.

Statement

District-wise details of loss of Human lives in the Cyclones of October, 1999 in Orissa

S. No.	Name of District	No. of Comfirmed Death Cases
1	2	3
1.	Balasore	62
2.	Bhadrak	83
3.	Cuttack	389
4.	Dhankanal	47
5.	Jagatsinghpur	6905

1	2	3
6.	Jaipur	79
7.	Kendrapada	372
8.	Keonjhar	22
9.	Khurda	107
10.	Mayurbhanj	7
11.	Nayagarh	2
12.	Puri	234
13.	Ganjam	179
14.	Gajapati	2
	TOTAL:	8490

Appearance of Secretary, Secondary and Higher Education before NMC

*620. SHRIIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI C. APOK JAMIR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Minorities Commission has recently asked Secretary, Secondary and Higher Education to appear before it;

(b) whether he was admonished by the Commission; and

(c) if so, the grounds on which he was so admonished?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir, on 1st March, 2001.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, However, during the course of the discussion, Secretary (S&HE) offered to issue a clarification in the next issue of the Journal of Value Education. The Clarification has since been issued and the undertaking given before the Commission has thus been fulfilled.